The Weekly News Letter is published by authority and instruction of the St. Louis Convention of the American Federation of Labor, and is furnished weekly, free of cost, to all official labor and reform publications.

SAMUEL GOMPERS, President.
FRANK MORRISON, Secretary.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

801-809 G St. N. W., Washington, D. C.

Entered as second-class matter, September 16, 1912, at the Post-office at Washington, D. C., under the act of August, 24, 1912.

The A. F. of L. Weekly News Letter contains a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

VOL. 2. NO. 40 | WASHINGTON, D. C., JANUARY 4 1913. | WHOLE NO. 92

ESTABLISH MINIMUM.

Trenton, N. J., Jan. 4.—The Public Service Corporation of New Jersey has issued a statement establishing a minimum wage of $9 weekly for girls and women in its employ. The welfare committee of this monopoly investigated and reported the sum named as the lowest wage on which girls could live in security against the pitfalls and temptations which beset young women who are thrown in contact with the world. The constant agitation carried on by the American Federation of Labor is largely responsible for the final conclusion of this monopoly to pay to its employees at least an amount which comes within the realms of being half-way fair, although the sum stipulated as a minimum does not contemplate any preparation for the future, but only the immediate necessity of the employee.

GRASPS SCOPE AND AIM.

San Francisco, Jan. 4.—Paul Scharrenberg, delegate to the annual convention of the American Federation of Labor at Rochester, N. Y., from the San Francisco Labor Council, concluded his report to that body with the following statement: "I share in the belief of other trade unionists who were present at the Rochester convention that this year's gathering of the American Federation of Labor made all men and women who are really trade unionists more sure of their ground than ever. The greatest latitude was allowed in the debates and a fine spirit of tolerance was shown by all delegates. I have heard talk about so-called 'elsewhere' methods at the A. F. of L. conventions. As a matter of fact nobody, or every single one of the Rochester convention as well as former and future conventions of the A. F. of L. serve a good purpose from many points of view. Apart altogether from the purely constructive and necessary legislative work of these conventions a better understanding is acquired of the aims and ambitions of the various groups of workers. There are many men at these conventions who disagree on fundamental issues, but nevertheless have the highest respect for each other as men and citizens who mean well. Whatever may be the shortcomings of our form of organization no one can claim that the American Federation of Labor is a rigid or unyielding body. The A. F. of L. has been and is responsive to the will of the organized wage workers, the claims of certain industrious press men to the contrary notwithstanding. And these annual conclaves do not only serve as a clearing house for all new thought and ideas, but demonstrate to the satisfaction of any reasonable person the American Federation of Labor is becoming more and more intelligent, and militant from year to year."

SHINGLE WEAVERS' NEWS.

Seattle, Wash., Jan. 4.—A large shingle manufacturing concern in Portland, Oreg., which the International Shingle Weavers' Union has been engaged in contest against for several years to bring about union conditions, has passed into other hands. The new firm has not raised the wages up to the union standard. This has given an impetus to the employers in this industry, which will undoubtedly bring about organization in that State. The eleventh annual convention of the International Shingle Weavers' Union will convene in Portland, Oreg., on January 8. The membership of the organization has voted by referendum on the matter of extending the jurisdiction of their organization to include all those employed in the lumber regions, and the extension was favorably acted upon. The convention is expected to provide plans and means for an energetic organizing campaign.

RECALL "UNCONSTITUTIONAL."

Argenta, Ark., Jan. 4.—The Supreme Court of the State of Arkansas has declared "unconstitutional" the recall amendment which was adopted by the people by a majority of 15,000. The recall amendment was initiated by the State Federation of Labor and the Farmers' Union. The reason for declaring the recall amendment "unconstitutional" is based upon the fact that the constitution provides that only three amendments can be submitted to the people at one election. It appears that there were in excess of the three amendments when the official ballot and the court decided to eliminate the recall amendment. It is understood that efforts will be put forth to secure another legislative petition and press the recall amendment to a vote at the next election.

TENNESSEE FEDERATION.

Nashville, Jan. 4.—The sixteenth annual convention of the Tennessee Federation of Labor will meet in this city on Monday, January 6. It will be the most important meeting ever held by the Federation in its history. Plans will be formulated for pressing measures before the next State Legislature for free textbooks for children attending the public schools; prohibition of the employment of children under the age of fourteen years; prohibiting the employment of women more than 60 Hours a week; providing for factory inspection, and other legislation of interest to wage-earners.

A BIG SUM.

Washington, Jan. 4.—From financial quarters, it is stated that there are still two more years during which the Steel Corporation's lease of the Hill ore lands has to run. From these it is estimated for 1912 and for 1913 and 1914. The trustees of the Hill property are to receive $18,431,000 from the Steel Corporation. This sum equals $11 on each of the 1,592,000 Great Northern Ore certificates that are outstanding.

ONE DAY OFF IN FIVE.

Holyoke, Mass., Jan. 4.—The proposition to give the firemen of the city a day off in five was carried by the people of the city when submitted to the vote of the people. Only one precinct in the city voted in opposition to this humanitarian provision.

BEGIN TEXTILE PROBE.

Little Falls, N. Y., Jan. 4.—The State board of arbitration has commenced an investigation into the local textile strike. Its scope, and the prospective adjustment between the mill owners and their employes

WAGE FOR WOMEN.

Philadelphia, Pa., Jan. 4.—"Self-supporting women require at least $8 a week in this city to provide the barest necessities, according to a warning issued by the commission on social service of the Interchurch Federation of this city. In cautioning women and girls coming to this city to accept employment, the commission estimates the weekly cost of living as follows: Room rent, with two meals, $5; luuches, $1.20; clothing and incidentals, $1.80. The commission, in its statement, declares that "so many dangers beset the self-supporting woman who has inadequate wage, or is out of employment for any length of time, that we feel justified in issuing this caution and warning."

EXPRESS COMPANIES CUTTING.

Washington, Jan. 4.—With the parcels post established on January 1, the express companies in almost feverish haste are meeting the rates adopted by the Post-office Department, and in some instance, at least, are cutting under the parcels post rates. One instance is reported where a prune shipper in California proposed to ship that fruit in eight-pound boxes, and under the parcels post rate this would be 12c per box. The express companies, which formerly have had a monopoly of shipments of this character, cut the rate to 10c. This cut will no doubt stimulate many other shippers to pack their products in containers not within the weight allowed by the parcels post (eleven pounds being the limit of weight), and it is believed that the big cut in rates which undoubtedly will take place will cover and exceed in most instances the extra cost of packing. Car shortages will become a thing of the past, so far as the shipping of perishable foodstuffs are concerned, as the government will not permit the mails to be become ruined by the policy of railroads in withdrawing cars. The outlook is indeed bright for the parcels post to revolutionize the transportation business of the entire country.

IN FIGHTING CLASS.

Lafayette, Ind., Jan. 4.—The strike of the retail clerks of this city against a local department store is still being vigorously prosecuted. The strike has been on for twenty-one consecutive weeks, and the ranks of the strikers are still unbroken. The fight is fighting for a minimum wage of $5 per week for saleswomen; a 5:30 o'clock closing, except on Saturday, when it shall be 9 o'clock; a January, February, July, and August. The retail clerks' organization, during almost the entire fight, has stood out for what might be termed a militant organization. Within the last two or three weeks, however, numerous efforts have been inaugurated by the retail clerks, with considerable success. While the strike mentioned is proving a hard-drawn-out contest, it will undoubtedly prove beneficial in the end to the employees of the department store against which the strike is being conducted, as well as having a salutary influence on other commercial enterprises where clerks are employed. Organized labor in Lafayette and vicinity are giving valuable support to the clerks in their present contest.

LOOKING FOR TROUBLE.

Aurora, Ill., Jan. 4.—It is stated that a number of manufacturing organizations in this city and vicinity are preparing to establish the "Taylor system" in their factories. As is well known, the system is a plan worked out whereby men are timed on particular pieces of work for the purpose of setting a standard. The standard is arrived at by compelling workmen to work at breakneck speed. The result is a scheme for the purpose of compelling workmen to employ every ounce of physical energy in their make-up, with a view to reducing the cost of manufacture, without a compensating increase to the workmen for the greater strain put on them. It is asserted that if this system is inaugurated, serious difficulty will likely follow, as has been the case in nearly every instance where the so-called "Taylor system" has been introduced.

PROFITS STILL GROWING.

Washington, Jan. 4.—In the statement of railroad earnings for November, which became public recently, the Union Pacific and Southern Pacific exhibit large gains in comparison with the figures for November, 1911. Union Pacific's November gross was $8,721,119, an increase of $1,652,196; net was $3,461,632, an increase of $1,046. Southern Pacific showed a gross in November of $12,651,413, an increase of $1,936,586; net was $3,439,986, an increase of $695,674. The earnings of each road for the year so far constitute a new high record. The earnings of Union Pacific in November show $10,838,889, which is an increase of $880,465 over November, 1911, and $4,010,735 net, an increase of 103,536.

SOME MERCHANTS ARE FAIR.

Pueblo, Colo., Jan. 4.—The merchants in this city, at a meeting recently held, unanimously refused to co-operate with Denver business men in an effort to set aside the women's eight-hour law, as passed at the recent election. It is stated that this action has put a damper upon the efforts of the Denver merchants to thwart the will of the people, and that the law will probably be allowed to remain in effect without a contest in the courts. The action of the Pueblo business men is commendable, and shows a liberal spirit for fair play and a proper regard for the rights of those who are employed by mercantile institutions.

CHARGE VIOLATION OF LAWS.

Alexandria, Va., Jan. 4.—A number of business firms in this city have been charged with violation of the laws of the State by the Bureau of Labor and Industrial Statistics. The charges include a vigorous effort to enforce the labor laws of the State, and convictions in a number of cases have been had.

NEW MEXICO NEWS.

Roswell, N. Mex., Jan. 4.—The president of the State Federation of Labor, together with Organizer John S. Lewis of the American Federation of Labor, have organized a Central Labor Union in this city. Organized labor of the State is active and the membership of the local unions is increasing.

UNION ACTIVITY CAN SECURE PASSAGE OF BOOHER CONVICT LABOR BILL

To Secretaries of State Federations and City Central Bodies:

The following is official, and you are urged to secure compliance with the request contained therein. Prompt action is essential.

FRANK MORRISON,
Secretary A. F. of L.

SAMUEL GOMPERS,
President A. F. of L.

The Booher convict labor bill, which passed the House of Representatives during the last session of Congress, was before a subcommittee of the Senate Judiciary Committee on January 3, and favorable report is expected to be made to the full Judiciary Committee. Senator Brown, of Nebraska, is chairman of the subcommittee. The Booher bill provides:

"That all goods, wares, and merchandise manufactured, produced, or mined, wholly or in part, by convict labor, or in any prison or reformatory, transported into any State or Territory, or remaining therein for use, consumption, sale, or storage, shall, upon arrival and delivery in such State or Territory, be subject to the operation and effect of the laws of such State or Territory to the same extent and in the same manner as though such goods, wares, and merchandise had been manufactured, produced or mined in such State or Territory, and shall not be exempt therefrom by reason of being introduced in original packages or otherwise."

It is important that all State Federations, Central Bodies, and Local Unions should take favorable action looking to have communications, under official seal, forwarded to their United States Senators and to the members of the Senate Judiciary Committee, as well, urging that the Booher convict labor bill—H. R. 5601—be favorably reported to the Senate and passed. The Senate Judiciary committee is composed of the following members:

Clark of Wyoming, chairman; Nelson of Minnesota, Dillingham of Vermont, Sutherland of Utah, Brandegee of Connecticut, Borah of Idaho, Brown of Nebraska, Cummins of Iowa, Root of New York, Bacon of Georgia, Culberson of Texas, Overman of North Carolina, Paynter of Kentucky, Chilton of West Virginia, and O'Gorman of New York. There is one vacancy upon the committee. Senator Rayner of Maryland having recently died.

Prompt action upon the part of the organizations of labor will have much influence in securing the passage of this measure, which has the indorsement of the American Federation of Labor. Address all communications to Senate Office Building, Washington, D. C.

RECENT RAILROAD WRECKS.

Washington, Jan. 4.—Ten men were injured, three seriously, and two engines wrecked for the scrap heap, and an electric passenger car demolished, as the result of two train wrecks in this city recently, when a B. & O. Railroad freight came into head-on collision with a Chesapeake Beach Railway passenger train, and the other when an Annapolis freight train crashed into a passenger car of the Washington, Baltimore and Annapolis Railway. Within a few miles of Cumberland, Md., a double-header passenger train on the B. & O. was derailed, both engines, the mail, baggage, and express cars leaving the track and rolling down an embankment. One engineer was injured, but the passengers escaped. At Lehigh Gap, Pa., twenty-five cars were completely wrecked and a track blockade existing as a result, in addition between two Lehigh Valley Railway freight trains. Fire followed the crash, and the caboose turned into the Lehigh River, and the brakeman's body is thought to be under the wreckage in the river. One of the wrecks is the result of a collision between a street car and a Lake Shore and Michigan Southern coal train at Ashtabula, Ohio.

VOCATIONAL TRAINING.

Indianapolis, Jan. 4.—Agreeable to an action taken by the legislature a commission was appointed to study industrial education in Indiana. The commission, after an investigation, has reported and recommended a levy of approximately 10 cents on every $100 of assessed property to give such training and grant it forward. The proposing of this levy is causing some opposition, but it is believed that only the recommendations of the commission some plan will be evolved whereby sufficient funds can be secured and an effective vocational training system be instituted in this State. Thirty-five hundred boys and girls in the State between the ages of fourteen and sixteen who have not secured adequate preparation for life's work in the schools and are working in occupations that hold no promise of future competency or advancement.

REYNOLDS' VIEW.

London, Jan. 4.—Under the caption "A Forlorn Hope," Reynolds's Newspaper says: "Mr. Arnold Hills first tried to save the Thames Ironworks Company by getting the Admiralty to give the concern at a higher rate than those given to the North of England firms. That attempt having failed, he put forward an ingenious scheme for the Trade Unions to invest £100,000 in the business. The one idea as preposterous as the other. At a mass meeting of workmen at Deptford Broadway the strongest exception was taken to looking up Trade Union funds in a business the unions might at any moment be fighting. The workmen very properly object to setting a standard. The standard is arrived at by compelling workmen to work at breakneck speed. The result is a scheme for the purpose of compelling workmen to employ every ounce of physical energy in their make-up, with a view to reducing the cost of manufacture, without a compensating increase to the workmen for the greater strain put on them. It is asserted that if this system is inaugurated, serious difficulty will likely follow, as has been the case in nearly every instance where the so-called "Taylor system" has been introduced.

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REMEMBERED.

Fall River, Mass., Jan. 4.—Innumerable are services performed by labor organizations in behalf of the interest of humanity. Simon S. Sullivan, formerly president of the Central Labor Union, Cleveland, and valuable service in aiding the Steam Firemen's Association in securing better conditions for firemen, is among thereof the firemen took occasion during the holiday season to remember in a substantial way the help rendered forth in their behalf by Simon Sullivan. Well-directed effort in humanitarian channels returns in two-fold and in a consciousness of having advanced a worthy cause, but when added to by personal appreciation one is doubly repaid.

TRUST ANNOUNCES RAISE.

Chicago, Jan. 4.—Clerks, bookkeepers, stenographers, and other office employees of the Pullman Company, to the number of 2,500 are to receive an increase in pay from 4 per cent to 12 per cent, the increase taking effect January 1. This is in accordance with a statement given to the public press by the Pullman Company. So far as the shop workmen are concerned no intimation is given as to whether they are to participate in any increase or not—probably not.

RAILWAY CARMEN.

Kansas City, Mo., Jan. 4.—The organization campaign of the Brotherhood of Railway Carmen continues. Recently two lodges have been organized, one located in this city. Organized labor of the State is active and the membership of the local unions is increasing.

A NOVEL ISSUE.

Holyoke, Mass., Jan. 4.—A novel issue has been presented in the local Upholsterers' Union in a suit in equity brought by a furniture company as a result of a strike. The upholsterers endeavored to secure a forty-four hour week and a wage scale of $21. The company refused to accept the figure and scale demanded and a strike ensued. The company charges that the union sought to have the strike-breakers cease work, and that in some cases it offered a weekly allowance and car fare to distant points. The injunction was issued on the ground it contended that the company did not come into court with clean hands, and was therefore not entitled to relief, because it had violated the law against aiding, abetting, and soliciting workmen to fill the places of the strikers without mentioning the fact of the existence of the strike; also that it had hired men to fill the strikers' places by means of false inducements contained in contracts executed by its agents, which were later repudiated by the company, after the men had been induced to accept employment under the contract, which were unequal and unfair. The outcome of this case will be watched with interest.

BIRMINGHAM NEWS.

Birmingham, Ala., Jan. 4.—Organized labor in this city is the active movement is having a healthy growth, the local of the International Alliance of Bill Posters and Billers of America has been organized by a local organizer of the American Federation of Labor. The local starts off with bright prospects. There is a movement on foot also among the clerks employed by the various railroad companies entering this city to revive the Brotherhood of Railway Clerks. At one time practically 70 per cent of the clerks employed in the capacity indicated were members of this organization, but for various unaccountable reasons the organization dwindled in membership and went to pieces. A new lodge of the Brotherhood of United States Cast Iron Pipe and Foundry Company. Under the agreement the machinists are to receive an increase of 2½ cents per hour and the working day reduced from ten hours to nine hours, and a half for overtime. The apprentices secured a reduction in hours without a decrease in pay. Through the efforts of the Allied Printing Trades Council a new local of mailers has been organized with a fair-sized charter list.

LATE, BUT ACCEPTABLE.

New York, Jan. 4.—It has been given out by officials of the steel trust that material increases in wages, particularly with respect to the wages paid to unskilled laborers, are to be inaugurated by the trust. This announcement coming as it does after a campaign of education among the employes of the steel trust by the American Federation of Labor, by the organization purposes, indicates the effectiveness of the Federation's campaign. A statement issued by the trust says: "The annual salaries and wages of $161,419,000. A very large per cent of the employes are unskilled laborers, yet in the information which has been given out it is stated that "not less than 30,000 laborers are to be benefited, and it is considered not improbable that many other employes in various minor capacities also will share in the new scale." If only 30,000 laborers are to be benefited it has every appearance of being a "phony" increase.

RECOMMENDS FREE BOOKS.

Nashville, Tenn., Jan. 4.—The Mayor of this city has recommended to the city council that the free text book system be instituted in all grades. This means that, in addition to the first, second, and third grades that are furnished free books at present, and as a consequence have already been made by the board of education for free books for the fourth and fifth be determined within a few days." has been promulgated. The United States Steel Corporation had 196,884 employes on its rolls in 1911, with a total annual salaries and wages of $161,419,000. A very large per cent of the employes are unskilled laborers, yet in the information which has been given out it is stated that "not less than 30,000 laborers are to be benefited, and it is considered not improbable that many other employes in various minor capacities also will share in the new scale." If only 30,000 laborers are to be benefited it has every appearance of being a "phony" increase.

BOOKBINDERS GET INCREASE.

New York, Jan. 4.—The paper rulers and blank bookbinders, members of the International Brotherhood of Bookbinders, have secured an advance in their wages, raising their minimum scale to $21 a week. This is an increase of $2 per week and affects over 800 men. The paper rulers and blank bookbinders of Chicago also have been successful in securing a new agreement which calls for a minimum of $22.50 per week, being an increase of $1.50 per week. The latter increase also affects a large number of members of the International Brotherhood.

CANADIAN ACCIDENTS.

Toronto, Can., Jan. 4.—According to the report of the Department of Labor there were 104 workmen killed and 324 injured during the month of August. Compared with the record of September this is an increase of 9 killed and a decrease of 7 injured. The greatest number of fatal accidents occurred in the railroad service, 37 employes being killed. The building trades come next with 18 fatalities. Of the number of accidents 72 per cent of the deaths the list with 85, the building trades coming next with 49 and railroads third with 27 injured.

PAINTERS AFTER INCREASE.

St. Paul, Minn., Jan. 4.—The painters in this city, by practically unanimous vote, have decided to strike in order to secure a new wage scale to go into effect the coming April. The new scale is stated to be $4 per day, and the prospects are that it will be inaugurated without much friction.

LOOKING AFTER TEXT-BOOKS.

San Francisco, Jan. 4.—A bill is being prepared for introduction at the coming session of the Legislature which provides that all work in the production of text-books for the public schools, including composition, shall be done at the State Printing Office at Sacramento.

STOCK FOR EMPLOYES.

Washington, Jan. 4. — The United States Steel Corporation, following its plan inaugurated in 1903, will offer this month to its employes the "privilege" of subscribing to preferred and common shares of stock on the basis of $100 for the preferred and $50 for the common. It would be interesting to know how much stock is already held and how much stock will be subscribed for by the employes of the steel trust that receive from 15 to 17 cents per hour for their labor.

GARMENT WORKERS' STRIKE.

New York, Jan. 4.—The New York district council of the United Garment Workers of America has authorized a general strike to abolish tenement house work, subcontracting, foot-power and gas-pressing engines. Other demands are for the eight-hour day, an increase in wages approximating 25 per cent, with a minimum wage scale for women and girls of $10 per week and $16 for men, with overtime, especially holiday overtime. It is contended that under the present factory law no contractor can employ any one in a tenement unless there are living rooms, but workmen and workwomen cannot be prevented from taking work home if it is done there by he or others than members of the family. This system, because of the spreading of many infectious and contagious diseases, in that fabrics used in the clothing industry are ready conveyors of germs of such nature. Leaving this consideration out of account, there still is another feature of the tenement house or home working which is crying for remedy, and that is that in the secluded workshop child labor is legally employed, and with the elimination of home work this abuse would be in a great measure done away with. The action of the district council has the sanction of the national organization, which has under it a most extensive and comprehensive plans have already been worked out for the conduct of the present strike. It is greatly to among the organizations affected than ever before in the history of the garment trades, and the strike is not expected to continue for any considerable length of time.

AFTER TRADES DISPUTE ACT.

London, Jan. 4.—In a recent issue of Reynolds' Newspaper, the following is printed under the heading, "Trade Unions and the Law:" "A group of Labor members has been formed for the purpose of preserving the legal rights of Trade Unions from encroachment. While it is now quite clear the Tory party intends to make upon the Trade Unions Bill Lord Wolmer, Mr. Peto, Lord Winterton, Mr. Norman Craig, Sir Alfred Scott Dyllip Magnus, and others have left no stone unturned to deprive the Unions of their legitimate rights, and Parliament will not rest until it has dealt with the Unions in the Trade Disputes act of 1906. They were responsible for the Taff Vale case and their maneuvers in the Bolton by-election, and the formation of the Liberal committee is viewed with much apprehension."

TO ASK GOVERNMENT AID.

Albany, Jan. 4.—The States most affected by the problem of the alien immigrant will ask the institution to co-operate with this State in an effort to induce Congress to enact legislation designed to relieve the State of the burden of caring for the mental defectives admitted to this country. The State of New York has had an expensive experience with alien league, and it is becoming a problem of great magnitude. It is pointed out that the present New York State Legislature will be asked to appropriate nearly $2,000,000 to care for the insane for 1913, an increase of approximately $2,500,000 over last year. Thousands of the insane admitted annually into the State are aliens, and it is assumed to be only fair that the Federal government, by immediately terminating admission of aliens into this country, should foot the bills for the care of the mental defectives admitted.

U. A. STEAMFITTERS.

Washington, Jan. 4.—The decision of the American Federation of Labor at the recent annual convention in Rochester, revoking the charter of the International Association of Steam Fitters, and giving jurisdiction over the steam fitting trades of the United Association of Plumbers, has had the effect of securing many accessions to the latter from the International Association. In St. Louis the Anheuser Busch Brewing Company, heretofore employing I. A. steamfitters, is now employing steamfitters that are affiliated with the United Association. Similarly in San Francisco the I. A. Steamfitters' Union has withdrawn from the International Association and affiliated with the United Association of Plumbers.

CHILD LABOR BLAMED.

Buffalo, Jan. 4.—The growth of immorality among young girls, a yearly increase in the number of illegitimate births and in the birth of sickly children are laid directly at the feet of employment of child labor and women, who fail to provide sanitary workshops for them. The foregoing statement was made by Dr. Francis E. Froncsak, Commissioner of Health, of Buffalo, who recently testified before the State factory investigation commission. The commissioner stated that employers who allowed children to work under such conditions as obtain should be indicted as criminals.

DEFECTIVE LOCOMOTIVES.

Washington, Jan. 4.—More than 46,000 of a total of a little more than 74,000 locomotives examined by inspectors of the Interstate Commerce Commission, under the chief inspector of locomotive-boilers, during the past year were found to be defective. Of this number 3,377 were ordered out of service for repairs. Only the most flagrant cases go to the court to enforce safety orders, and only five appeals were taken from the inspectors' findings during the year. The number is expected due to failure from any cause of a locomotive boiler is being investigated.

HOUSING OF MINERS.

Pittsburg, Jan. 4.—The United States Coal Company recently let contracts for the building of a number of modern mining houses, one to the company's mines on the Keyser and Saylor farms near Bowood, Somerset County. The houses will be supplied with running water and electric lights, and will be the first modern houses to be put up for miners in this section of the country.

SAFETY FIRST.

Washington, Jan. 4.—In the recent decision of the Interstate Commerce Commission, "safety first" is made the paramount rule of train operation suggested by the commission in its report. The discussion of accidents on American railroads during the last year constitutes an important feature. It is pointed out that many of the accidents resulting in fatalities might have been averted by the exercise of proper precaution or the employment of suitable devices and good equipment. Figures are given which show that of the total of 8,218 derailments during the year, $77 were caused by defects of roadway and 6,847 were due to defective equipment. This indicates an increase over the previous year of 653 of the derailments due to bad roadway and 1,023 due to bad equipment.

AFTER "INJUNCTION" GOULD.

Washington, Jan. 4.—Recently the House of Representatives adopted the Johnson resolution calling for a Congressional investigation into certain legislative campaigns in this city. Immediately following the passage of the resolution Congressman Mann of Illinois, who had strongly urged the adoption of the measure, severely criticised two Illinois corporations and the directors of the companies to be investigated, namely, Judge Ashley M. Gould, of the District of Columbia Supreme Court, and Judge George W. Atkinson, of the Court of Claims. Congressman Mann said: "I notice that Judge Gould is also a director of this company. Hon. George W. Atkinson, chief justice of the United States Court of Claims, and as a director and vice president, Hon. Ashley M. Gould, justice of the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia. I simply wish to put on record my opinion that it is wholly improper for men on the bench to be appointed or selected as directors and officers of insurance companies or other companies, especially those that are involved in business complications and secret deals. It is not proper to exploit the names of honorable and eminent gentlemen as directors. I know these two gentlemen and I do not intend to criticise them, but I believe that if they apprehend the effect they will retire from these companies at once, and the sooner the better. Justice Gould is the gentleman who issued the first injunction against the officials of the American Federation of Labor, and I do not intend to be interesting from the point of view that a Congressman criticises the justice for making injunctions in the labor enterprises in the jurisdiction over which he has judicial authority, and believes that it is an incongruous situation for a judge to enter into business relations as referred to above.

ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION.

St. Louis, Jan. 4.—The Central Trades and Labor Union of this city celebrated the twenty-second anniversary on Saturday evening, December 21. The organization of the Central Trades and Labor Union occurred in the year 1890, and at the time when the general assembly of the Knights of Labor concurred in a resolution to request the Central Labor International Union to take its choice between the American Federation of Labor and Knights of Labor. Among those present the men who were among the early organizers of the Central Trades and Labor Union were David Kreyling, a cigarmaker, now and for many years secretary-treasurer of the organization; Harry Blackmore, carpenter; J. P. Martell, a printer; Owen Miller, secretary-treasurer of the Musicians' Union. Musicians. A charter was granted the organization by the A. F. of L. in the year of its organization in 1887. This body is one of the most deliberative and effective central bodies in the United States.

SEEK OVERTIME PAY.

New York, Jan. 4.—One hundred and fifty men and women formerly employed in the Brooklyn Navy Yard have organized a committee which hopes to secure from the government $30,000 for overtime work for which they had claimed was due them. The claims have been hanging fire for nearly thirty-five years. On March 21, 1878, an order signed by the Secretary of the Navy was posted in the Navy Yard, which stated that eight hours would constitute a day's work. It said also that any workman who should work for more than eight hours should get a proportionate increase in pay. Most of the men worked overtime on the strength of the order. Since that time this order was in operation many men have received extra pay, but they never received it.

PROFIT IN CHILD LABOR.

Washington, Jan. 4.—The directors of the Lorillard Tobacco Company have declared the regular quarterly dividend of 1½ per cent and an extra dividend of 2½ per cent on its common stock. The regular quarterly dividend of 1½ per cent on the preferred stock was also declared. The dividends are payable January 15 to stock on a 22 per cent basis. The American Snuff Company has also declared an extra dividend of 2½ per cent on its common stock, together with the regular quarterly dividend of 7 per cent on the preferred stock, both payable on the 15th inst. Both companies are lineal descendants of the old tobacco trust, the American Tobacco Company, noted for its employment of child labor.

PULMOTORS SUCCESSFUL.

Pittsburg, Jan. 4.—Forty minutes after they had been declared dead of suffocation, seven out of twelve firemen overcome by the gases resulting from the destruction of the Westinghouse Electric plant by fire were revived by pulmotors in the hands of the men who have been trained to the life-saving invention. The Bureau of Mines in Washington has put in the fire equipment of pulmotors for its life-saving crew, and they have proved successful in many instances. It is stated that all the fire department in this city will at once add to its equipment a sufficient number of pulmotors to supply any emergency which might arise in the future.

ELECT VICE PRESIDENT.

Tacoma, Wash., Jan. 4.—Joseph F. Clarke, of this city, has been elected fourth vice president of the International Association of Painters, Decorators, and Paperhangers at an election recently held to fill a vacancy in that office.

TEXTILE WORKERS LOCKED OUT.

Ebensburg, Germany, Jan. 4.—Because the textile union supported strikers in a local factory, 20,000 textile workers have been locked out by the Manufacturers' Association.